

Silver Snoopys for DCMA Pratt & Whitney Canoga Park Employees

by Capt. Damian Benigno, U.S. Air Force, Delta II Support Program Integrator, DCMA Pratt & Whitney Canoga Park, Calif.

Recently, two employees of Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Pratt & Whitney Canoga Park, Calif., received an unexpected visit from astronaut Air Force Col. James Kelly during their team's monthly performance review briefing. Mr. Joseph Abrano, quality engineer, and Mr. Gerardo "Sam" Samaniego, technical lead, were recognized by NASA and DCMA with Silver Snoopy awards for their outstanding quality assurance efforts in support of the Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) program. In a ceremony honoring the recipients, Col. Kelly presented both men with a Silver Snoopy pin, letter of commendation and certificate.

Mr. Abrano's expertise with the Failure Modes Effects Analysis – Critical Items List's (FMEA-CIL's) continually evolving processes, procedures and philosophies provided valuable insight into the validity of existing risk-mitigating controls. His input contributed to NASA's ability to confirm the overall acceptability of the FMEA-CIL objectively. In addition, as government mandatory inspection points have increased, Mr. Abrano was called upon to lead DCMA's effort in reviewing SSME master planning documents and associated Classification of Characteristics worksheets, assuring that all hazard causes were identified and verifying proper implementation of hazard controls.

Mr. Samaniego diligently performed NASA-mandated audits of the contractor's processes and successfully contributed to several significant process improvements by uncovering non-conformances and identifying weaknesses of the assessed processes and systems. Mr. Samaniego's commitment to customer service and attention to detail ensured the meticulous execution of a NASA-mandated review of the contractor's foreign object damage (FOD) prevention procedures. His findings revealed a drift from a previously established FOD prevention plan and the need for management focus in this area.

Mr. Abrano's and Mr. Samaniego's dedication and professionalism have been critical in maintaining the safety culture necessary for human space flight. We congratulate them in receiving this impressive recognition for their contributions to the Space Shuttle program's success.



(Above) Mr. Joseph Abrano (left), DCMA Pratt & Whitney Canoga Park quality engineer, and Mr. Gerardo "Sam" Samaniego (right), technical lead, with Silver Snoopy award presenter astronaut Air Force Col. James Kelly.

(Background) Space Shuttle Discovery and its seven-member crew launch and begin the two-day journey to the International Space Station on the historic Return to Flight STS-121 mission on July 6, 2006. The outstanding quality assurance efforts of DCMA employees Mr. Joseph Abrano and Mr. Gerardo "Sam" Samaniego contributed to the successful and safe STS-121 mission. (Photo courtesy of NASA)

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